

Kiowa Warrior



MISSION

Conduct armed reconnaissance/security, target acquisition/designation, command and control, light attack, and air combat (defensive) missions in support of combat and contingency operations.

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS

The Kiowa Warrior is the rapidly deployable, lightly armed reconnaissance aircraft for the Army. The OH-58D includes advanced visionics, navigation, communication, weapons, and cockpit integration systems. The OH-58D Mast-Mounted Sight houses a thermal imaging system, low-light television, and a laser rangefinder/designator. These systems allow target acquisition and engagement at stand-off ranges and in adverse weather conditions. The Kiowa Warrior's highly accurate navigation system provides precise target location that can be handed off to other aircraft or artillery via its digital communications system. Battlefield imagery can be transmitted to provide near-real-time situational awareness to command and control elements. The Kiowa Warrior can be rapidly and easily deployed and, upon arrival, placed into operation within minutes. The armament systems combine to provide anti-armor, anti-personnel, and anti-aircraft capabilities at stand-off ranges.

Max gross weight: 5,500 lb

Max speed: 118 kt, clean; 113 kt, armed

Crew: 2

Armament: ATAS (2 round launcher); .50 caliber machine gun; HYDRA 70 (2.75 in) rockets (7-shot pod); HELLFIRE missiles (2 round launcher).

FOREIGN COUNTERPART

France: Gazelle, Allouette; Germany: BO-105; Russia: Hind, Hip, Hoplite.

FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

Taiwan: Delivery of 26 Kiowa Warriors completed. Thirteen additional aircraft requested as amendment to the existing foreign military sales case.

PROGRAM STATUS

2QFY99 Completed OH-58D retrofit program.

1QFY00 A total of 387 aircraft have been fielded. Aircraft are located at training bases and operational units worldwide. Bell Helicopter Textron is modifying the first lot of 28 aircraft as part of the OH-58D Safety Enhancement Program (SEP). The SEP will upgrade the entire Kiowa Warrior fleet with improved engines, crashworthy seats, cockpit airbags, and a digitized mission equipment package.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES

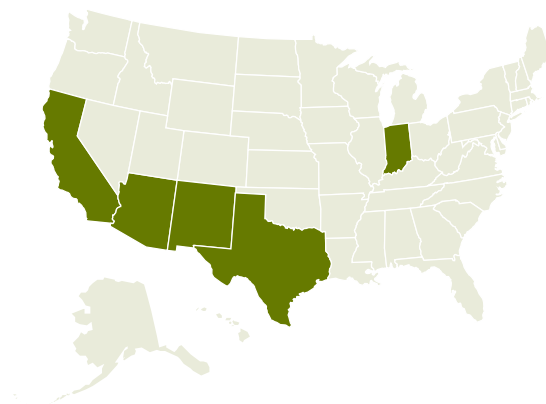
FY00 Complete OH-58D Kiowa Warrior production in FY00 after 15 years in production.

Twenty-eight aircraft are scheduled for the SEP upgrade.

FY06 The RAH-66 Comanche fielding will begin to displace Kiowa Warriors from the Active Army to the National Guard. The Kiowa Warrior will remain in service past FY20.

PRIME CONTRACTORS

Rolls Royce/Allison Engines (Indianapolis, IN); Honeywell (Albuquerque, NM); Textron (Fort Worth, TX); Boeing (Anaheim, CA); Simula (Tempe, AZ)



* See appendix for list of subcontractors



Project the Force



Protect the Force



Gain Information
Dominance



Shape the Battlespace



Conduct Decisive
Operations



Sustain the Force